

Confidential.

## A N N U A L    R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the YEAR 1944.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROMNEY MARSH.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors:-

The area of the District is 31,031 acres.

The Resident Population, according to the Registrar-General's returns was:- 2558.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year 1944, according to the Rate Books was:- 880.

The Rateable Value was £19,806.

The sum represented by a penny rate was £58.

## VITAL STATISTICS

				Males:	Females:	Total:
LIVE BIRTHS:-	Legitimate	...	...	22	22	44
	Illegitimate	...	...	4	4	8
				<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>52</u>

This gives a Birth Rate of 20.32 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

The Birth Rate for England &amp; Wales was:- 17.60.

Birth Rates for past five years:-

					Romney Marsh:	England & Wales.
1940	...	...	...	...	10.99	14.60
1941	...	...	...	...	20.31	14.20.
1942	...	...	...	...	11.47	15.80.
1943	...	...	...	...	13.48.	16.50.
1944	...	...	...	...	20.32	17.60
				Average	<u>15.31</u>	<u>15.74</u>

DEATHS:-	Males:	Females:	Total:
	24	14	38


This gives a Death Rate of 14.85 per 1000 of the estimated population.

The Death Rate for England &amp; Wales was:- 11.6.

The Death Rates for the past five years were:-

						Romney Marsh:	England & Wales:
1940	...	...	...	...	...	14.76	14.30
1941	...	...	...	...	...	10.77	12.90
1942	...	...	...	...	...	13.41	11.60
1943	...	...	...	...	...	9.24	12.10
1944	...	...	...	...	...	14.85	11.60
				Average		<u>12.60</u>	<u>12.50</u>

STILL BIRTHS:- There was one Stillbirth, a Legitimate female.  
This gives a rate of 18.86 per 1000 total (live & still) births.



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Deaths from Cancer	- 10	
" " Heart disease	- 13	
" " Puerperal Causes	- Nil.	
" " Measles (all ages)	- Nil.	
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	- Nil.	
" " Tuberculosis	- 3	2 Male & 1 Female, Respiratory.
" " Diarrhoea (in children under 2 years of age.)	- Nil.	

There was no unusual or excessive Mortality.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	- 12
Pneumonia	- 2
Whooping Cough	- 35
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	- 1

Eleven of the cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Ashford Isolation Hospital. One had to be sent to Canterbury as there was no accommodation at Ashford at the time.

#### WATER SUPPLY:-

In a few outlying parts of the Marsh where wells are in use there was shortage of water at times of drought, but the Mid-Kent Water Company has done its best to provide a temporary supply from the nearest points of their Mains.

The Council has drawn up a Scheme for the extension of the existing Mains in several parts of the Marsh, and the Mid-Kent Water Company have given estimates of the cost of each extension. The whole of these figures, with a list of the properties which could be served, has been forwarded to the Kent County Council, with a request for information of what amount of grant they would be prepared to make towards the cost thereof, and the Council is now waiting for that information before they can proceed further in the matter. The amount involved is £20,000.

Reports of the bacteriological examinations of the Mid-Kent Company's water are forwarded to me monthly and have been invariably good, and there has been no shortage from their Mains. The supply to Romney Marsh comes from their wells at Barham.

Samples of the Littlestone water are taken twice a month, in adjoining districts, for bacteriological examination and the results, with one exception, have been good. The cause of the exception was due to war conditions and was speedily remedied. There was no evidence of over-chlorination in our area.

#### HOUSING:-

Forty permanent and six Swedish timber houses have recently been allocated to this district.

Fourteen cottages for Agricultural Workers have been erected and are now in occupation.

Owing to First Aid Repairs taking up the full time of the Building & Sanitary Inspector it has been impossible to commence the general housing survey required by the Ministry.

#### DRAINAGE:-

In consequence of Enemy action we have had difficulty at the outfall of the Dymchurch Sewer, and a scheme is in course of preparation to remedy it.

Owing to financial difficulties the Council has been unable to proceed with a scheme for the whole of the parish of Dymchurch,

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

28th August, 1945.

ARNOLD McMILLAN.

